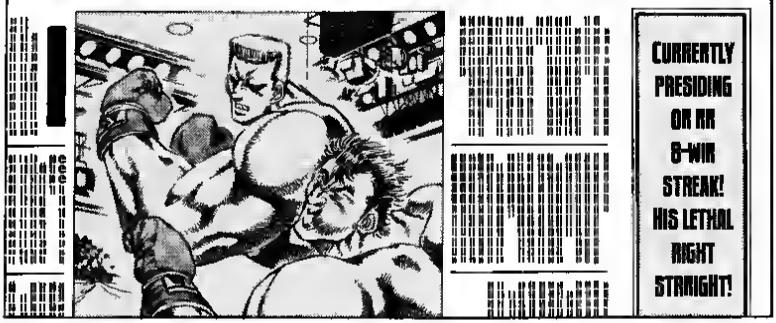
7 DAYS TILL TAKAJO YUKI'S GONG

LONG-AWAITED BIG-TIME ROOKIE OF JAPANESE BOXING'S HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION

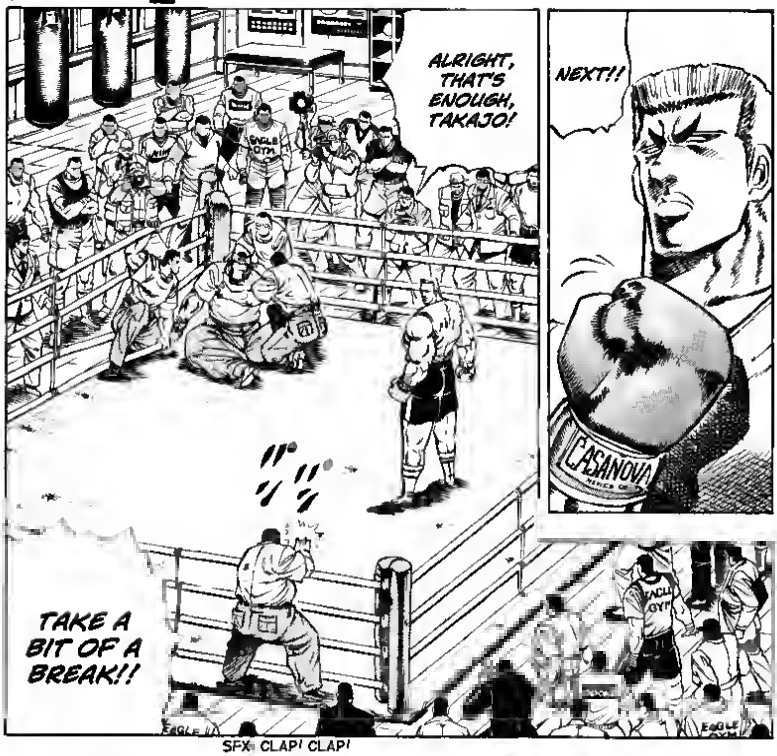


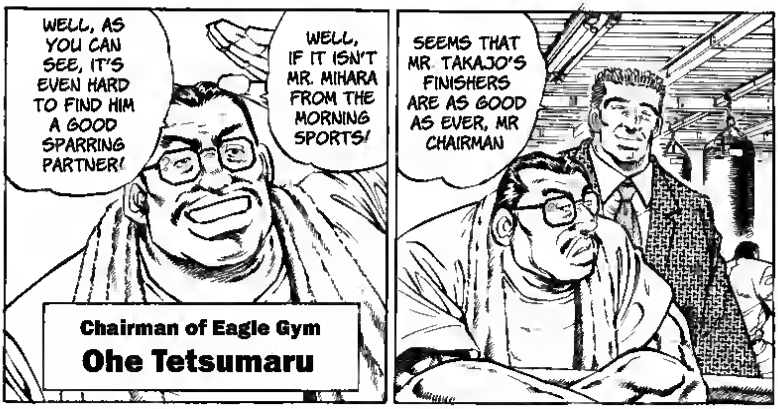
Considering his age, ie the outcome going to be obvicnel? Some even euepect the arrangement of thie match...
His opponent is the one-time world heavy-weight ranker, Ken Tamaki (age 46)

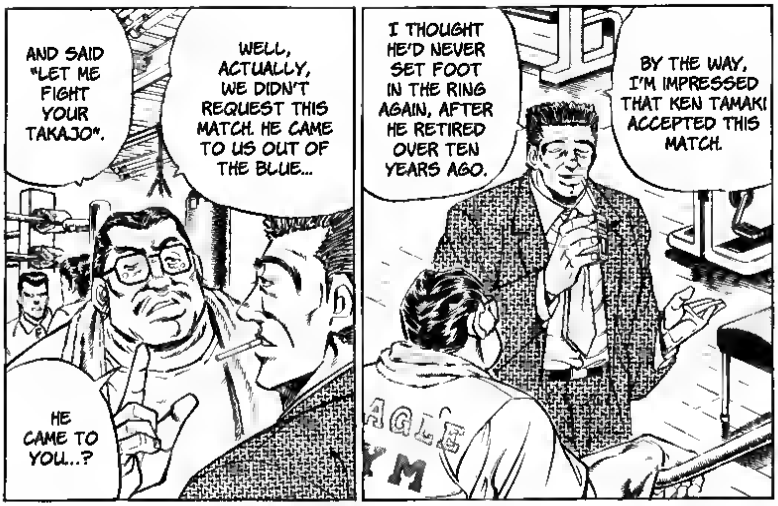
GONG7
LONELY
BOYS

I'M GONNA GO EAT!
YOU AND YOUR FUCKING BULLSHIT...
SFX: RIP!
SHUT THE FUCK UP! THERE'S NOTHING I HATE MORE THAN BOXING!!
!?
HEHEH... I NOTICED HE'D BEEN REAL QUIET LATELY. GUESS HE'D BEEN BOTTLING IT ALL UP
WHAT'S HE SO PISSED ABOUT!?
SIGN: EAGLE GYM
BOXING GYMNASIUM

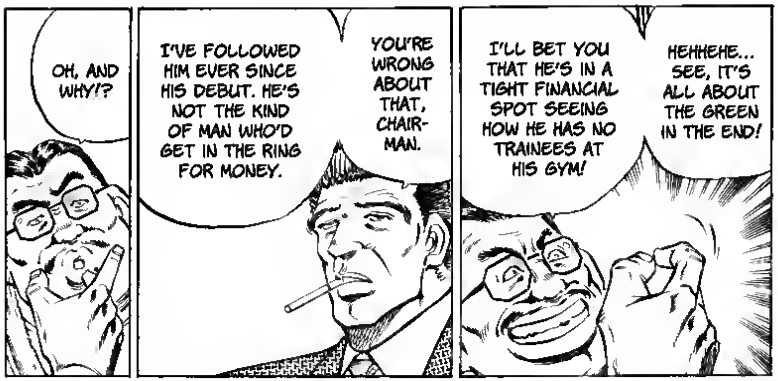
SFX: SWOOOSH! / STEP!
SFX: KA-BOOOOM!
SFX: SLAM!
GGH!!


ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH, TAKAJO!
NEXT!!
CASANOVA
TAKE A BIT OF A BREAK!!
SFX: CLAP! CLAP!


WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S EVEN HARD TO FIND HIM A GOOD SPARRING PARTNER!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T MR. MIHARA FROM THE MORNING SPORTS!
SEEMS THAT MR. TAKAJO'S FINISHERS ARE AS GOOD AS EVER, MR CHAIRMAN
Chairman of Eagle Gym
Ohe Tetsumaru

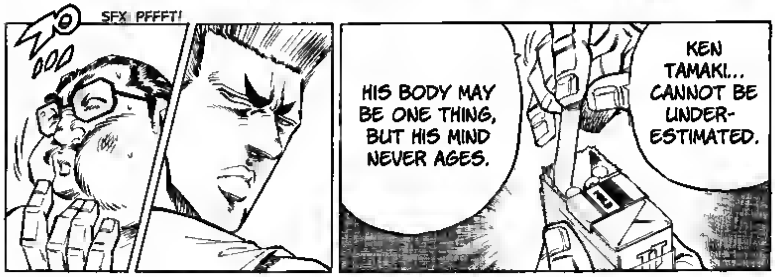

AND SAID "LET ME FIGHT YOUR TAKAJO".
WELL, ACTUALLY, WE DIDN'T REQUEST THIS MATCH. HE CAME TO US OUT OF THE BLUE...
HE CAME TO YOU..?
I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER SET FOOT IN THE RING AGAIN, AFTER HE RETIRED OVER TEN YEARS AGO.
BY THE WAY, I'M IMPRESSED THAT KEN TAMAKI ACCEPTED THIS MATCH.

SO WE ACCEPTED IT BECAUSE IT'D MAKE A GREAT NEWS HOOK AND THE INDUSTRY COULD MAKE A BIG PROFIT OFF OF IT!
BUT HE'S THE FORMER WORLD FIFTH-PLACE HEAVY-WEIGHT, AND HE HAS A LOT OF OLD FANS.
WELL, NORMALLY SPEAKING, WE WOULDN'T SET UP A MATCH WITH A BIG MONEY-MAKER LIKE TAKAJO AGAINST A RETIRED BOXER OLD ENOUGH TO BE HIS FATHER.


OH, AND WHY!?
I'VE FOLLOWED HIM EVER SINCE HIS DEBUT. HE'S NOT THE KIND OF MAN WHO'D GET IN THE RING FOR MONEY.
YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT, CHAIR-MAN.
I'LL BET YOU THAT HE'S IN A TIGHT FINANCIAL SPOT SEEING HOW HE HAS NO TRAINEES AT HIS GYM!
HEHHEHE... SEE, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GREEN IN THE END!

HEY, TAKAJO! I TOLD YOU TO REST UP!!
SFX CRASH!
EAGLE GYM
YOU BUILD YOUR BODY TOO MUCH AND YOU'LL KILL THE OLD MAN!!

THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY IS...
I DON'T KNOW WHY MYSELF.


SFX PFFFT!
HIS BODY MAY BE ONE THING, BUT HIS MIND NEVER AGES.
KEN TAMAKI... CANNOT BE UNDER-ESTIMATED.

I TELL YOU, HELL'S GONNA FREEZE OVER BEFORE TAKAJO LOSES TO THAT FUCKIN' FOSSIL!
WAHHAHA! COMING FROM THE BIGGEST BOXING EXPERT IN THE MEDIA, THAT'S GOTTA BE A JOKE!!

SIGN: SAURUS GYM

SIGN: ENTRANCE / STEP

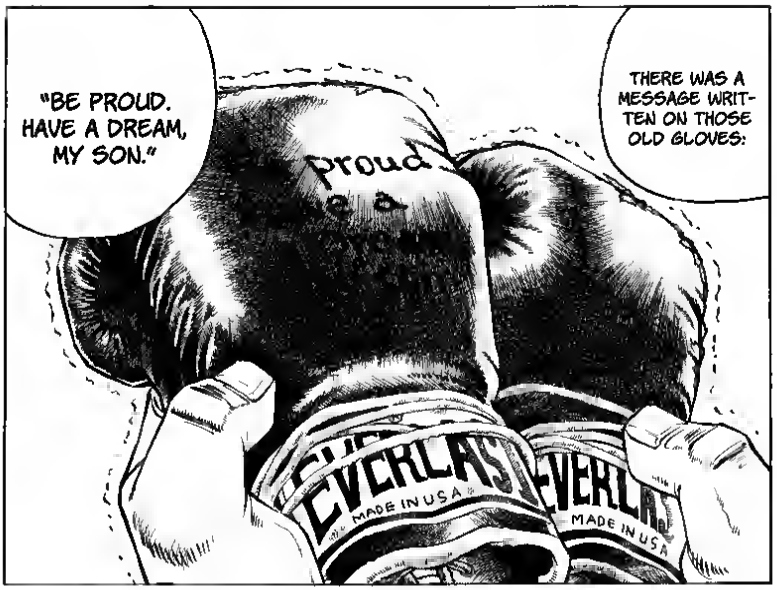
SFX: SWOOOSH!
SFX: SWOOOSH!
YOU HAVE TO THROW A STRONGER AND SHARPER RIGHT STRAIGHT!
THAT PUNCH WON'T CUT IT!
SFX: HUFF! HUFF!
SO HE'S USING THAT KID AS A STAND-IN FOR TAKAJO.
AHHHH, I SEE.
I-I CAN'T POSSIBLY THROW A PUNCH LIKE TAKAJO..
T-THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, BUT THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO!

SFX: DASH!
NOW, ONE MORE TIME!!
SFX: SWISH!
KCH. I'LL BET HE'S JUST SOME FUCKIN' PART-TIMER HE BROUGHT IN FROM SOME OTHER GYM.
HE'S NOT SO MUCH A HEAVY-WEIGHT AS HE IS A PLAIN FATASS.
.....
ARE YOU A FAN OF HIS, TOO!?
IF I REMEMBER, HIS RIGHT WAS AWE-SOME.
FOR A MOMENT, HIS FIST LOOKED TRIPLE THE SIZE, AND IT EVEN KNOCKED MY ASS THROUGH THE AIR.

AND I KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT HIM.
HEHHEHE... I'M ONE OF HIS BIGGEST FANS, AS A MATTER OF FACT.
Y-YOU GOTTA BE FUCKING KIDDING ME!!
WHO THE FUCK WOULD BE A FAN OF THAT OLD CODGER!?
WHAT ALL DO YOU KNOW?
Y-YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM..?
HIS FATHER WAS AN AMERICAN SOLDIER SERVING ON THE US BASE THERE, AND HIS MOTHER WAS A JAPANESE WORKING ON-BASE.
HE WAS BORN IN A CITY CALLED KOZA IN OKINAWA.
YOU WANT TO HEAR ME TELL YOU?
WARNING
警告!
立入禁止 KEEP OUT

AND HIS MOTHER DIED OF ILLNESS, AS IF FOLLOWING HIM.
BUT THE YEAR HE TURNED TWO, HIS FATHER DIED IN A WAR IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA...
AND HE WAS PRETTY WELL-KNOWN BACK HOME FOR AN AMATEUR.
HIS FATHER WAS ALSO A BOXER...
AND HE WAS A PRETTY BAD DELINQUENT FOR AS LONG AS HE COULD REMEMBER.
WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THE MEANING OF LOVE.
HAVING BEEN ORPHANED, HE WAS TAKEN AND RAISED IN AN INSTITUTION...
HE WAS TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY COUNTLESS TIMES, AND WAS EVEN SENT TO JUVY.
YEAH. HE GOT INTO FIGHTS DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
THAT OLD MAN!?
DELINQUENT...
J-JUVY ...?

HE GAVE HIM SOMETHING, AND SAID...
BUT THEN ONE DAY, A MAN CAME TO VISIT HIM.
.....
TAX FREE
HE HAD NEVER ACTUALLY LOST A FIGHT IN HIS LIFE...
SO HE ACTUALLY THOUGHT HE'D USE HIS STRENGTH TO BECOME A GANG BOSS.
I KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT MY FRIEND, YOUR FATHER, WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS.
TAKE THIS.
U.S.ARMY
AND HE LEFT THIS IN MY CARE.
AND HE CALLED OUT YOURS AND YOUR MOTHER'S NAMES UNTIL THE MOMENT HE DIED.
HE FOUGHT BRAVELY...

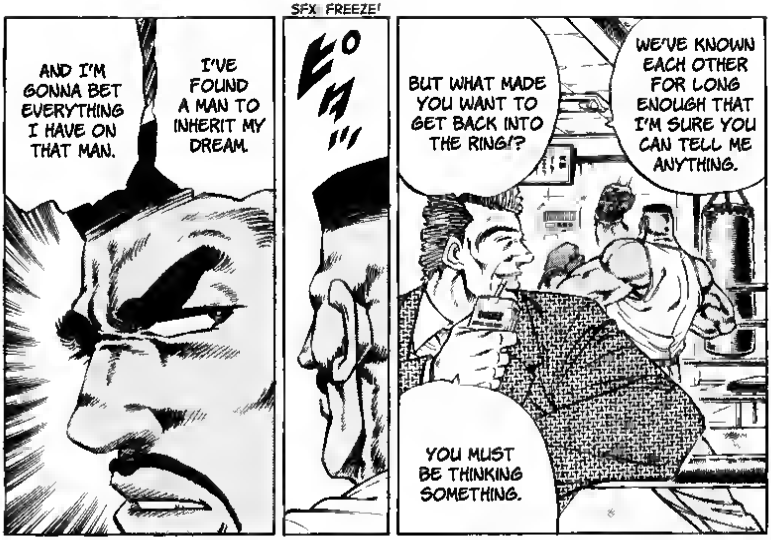

"BE PROUD. HAVE A DREAM, MY SON."
THERE WAS A MESSAGE WRITTEN ON THOSE OLD GLOVES:
Proud
MADE IN USA
MADE IN USA

HE KNEW THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO CARED FOR HIM... HE KNEW THE MEANING OF LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
THEN HE CRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE.

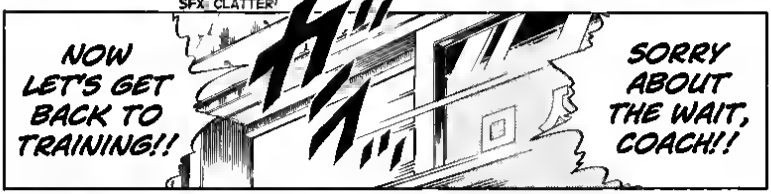
SFX CLATTER!
I'VE ACTUALLY GOT TO INTERVIEW HIM NOW.
OH, LOOKS LIKE I'VE SAID A BIT TOO MUCH!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN WITH ME!?
HE BEGAN WORKING TOWARDS HIS DREAM OF BEING WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION.
AND THAT'S WHEN HIS WHOLE LIFE CHANGED.
SFX DROP!
SFX STEP!
THAT OLD MAN, HUH...

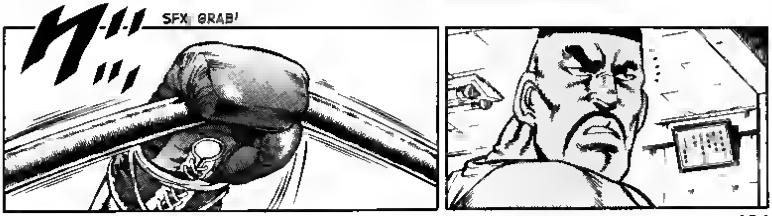
SFX: FREEZE!
SFX: SWISH! SWISH!
No. 4
THAT'S A LEFT!!
RIGHT! I SAID RIGHT!!
GUESS I GOT NO CHOICE.
.....
SFX: HUFF! HUFF!
I-I'M ALL BURNED OUT!
P-PLEASE, LET ME TAKE A BREAK, COACH!
SFX: TAP! TAP!
I'M GOING OUTSIDE TO COOL OFF!

AND THERE'S JUST ONE WEEK UNTIL THE MATCH...
IT'S NOT ENOUGH. I CAN BARELY CALL IT TRAINING.
SINCE I'VE SEEN SUCH PASSIONATE RING WORK FROM YOU, KEN.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
SFX: SLAM!
HE CAN'T EVEN BEAT TAKAJO, NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIES!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! HE FUCKS ME AROUND FOR PEANUTS!
YOU MIND IF I BORROW IT?
THAT'S SOME NICE GEAR YOU GOT THERE.
HEY, BRO.
HUH!?


SFX: FREEZE!
AND I'M GONNA BET EVERYTHING I HAVE ON THAT MAN.
I'VE FOUND A MAN TO INHERIT MY DREAM.
BUT WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GET BACK INTO THE RING!?
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR LONG ENOUGH THAT I'M SURE YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING.
YOU MUST BE THINKING SOMETHING.

AND WHO'S THAT!?
A-A MAN TO INHERIT YOUR DREAM...?


SFX: CLATTER!
NOW LET'S GET BACK TO TRAINING!!
SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT, COACH!!


SFX: GRAB!

CAUSE THIS TIME, I'M GIVING IT ALL I GOT!!
YOU BETTER GET YOUR ASS READY FOR A FUCKIN' BEATING!
SFX: TWITCH! TWITCH!
SFX: SWOOOSH!
.....!?

BAKUDAN

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